MONTEREY NEWS

FEBRUARY 1988

TOWN NEWS

Town Offices Shut Down for Safety Reasons

Acting on a warning from Ray Tryon, who noticed unusual distortion in the ceiling of a meeting room during a Conservation Commission meeting on Monday, January 11, Monterey selectmen met with Building Inspector Carleton Anderson, Ray Tryon in his capacity as Public Safety Officer, and a structural engineer named DeRagon of Hill Engineering in Dalton, Massachusetts. The group inspected the ceiling joists above the rooms housing the Monterey Kindergarten and ascertained that the excessive weight of materials and furniture combined with the "live weight" of people spending time in the offices and meeting rooms posed a threat to the school children below. Upon hearing the news, State Building Inspector DiBario ordered the offices closed immediately, not to be reopened for public use until an inspection and recommendations had been made by a licensed structural engineer. The kindergarten rooms were closed to use for two days while the removal and transferral of file cabinets and furniture proceeded.

Temporary offices have been set up in the library basement, where Town Secretary Maryellen Brown may be found, and the Town Garage, where the selectmen will be meeting on Monday nights.

A preliminary engineering report came in January 14 and stated that continued use would require strengthening of the floor and stabilizing of the walls of the building. The selectmen wish to make clear that no plans either for renovation of the existing building, for designing a new Town hall, or for a long-term lease of office space will be made before the idea is submitted to the Finance Committee and the voters at large.

Land Acquisition Proposed by D. E. M.

The selectmen announced at their January 20 meeting that the Department of Environmental Management wants to acquire about 17 acres of property lying both in Monterey and Great Barrington. Criteria for such acquisition are that the property must be unimproved and will be used for conservation and recreation. The parcel in question is on the north side of Route 23 at its intersection with Route 57. It is the location of the old Appalachian Trail path opposite Hayloft Gallery.

Catherine Mielke Honored at Resignation

Catherine Mielke was honored at a surprise party following her last Conservation Commission meeting on Monday night, January 11. She had served on the Commission for 23 years and had been chairman for as long as anybody can remember. In addition to hors d'oeuvres and champagne, Kay and her well wishers were entertained with stories of her lively political career. She was presented with a plaque commemorating her service to the Town by her son, Rick, and Representative Chris Hodgkins arrived with a citation from the State House of Representatives. State Senator Peter Webber couldn't make it but has a citation for her from the Senate, as well. Jed Lipsky read to the group a letter from George Wislocki, executive director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, expressing his fondness and admiration for Kay as a conservationist.

— Ellen K. Pearson

PARK COMMISSION

Monterey Ski Day—Friday, February 26, at Butternut Basin Ski Area for all Monterey residents.

Set aside this day and join other Monterey skiers for a fun day, with reduced rates for those without passes and a fun party after skiing in the upper lodge. Don't miss it!

For more information contact Dean Amidon, 528-1233, or Stephanie Grotz, 528-4519.

American Cancer Society's "Daffodil Day" coming up next month. Watch for details to order your big beautiful blooms in time.

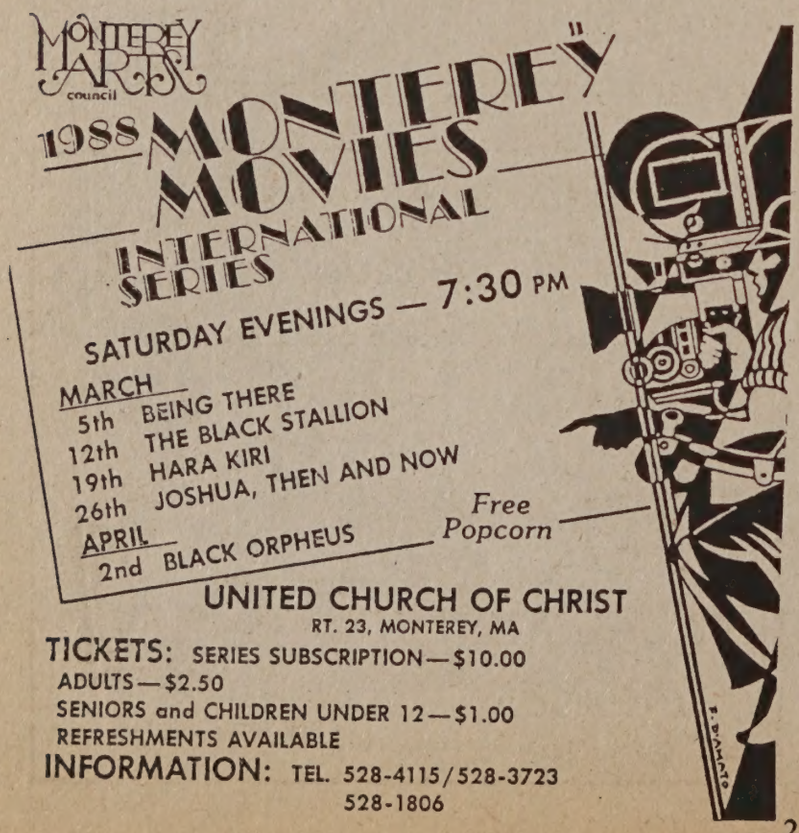
— Fran Amidon

CHURCH NOTES

It often happens that after a long pastorate (ten years or more) the succeeding pastorate is very short. After a pastorate of 20 years followed by 19 months without a pastor the Monterey United Church of Christ called the Rev. Robert Palin to the ministry here. He entered into his duties in January 1987. At his own request he completed his work in January 1988. We regret that his time here has been so short. He has helped us in a difficult time of change and growth. We thank him and wish him Godspeed.

To share with us the next steps of our journey as a church, we have engaged the Rev. Cliff Aerie of Sheffield to be stated supply minister from February 7 through Easter Sunday. We will worship at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in the fellowship room of the church during the winter. We welcome all those who would join us in our pilgrimage.

— Ardelle Gile



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

One of the first literary critics, Callimachus of Alexandria, once said, "A great book is a great evil." This Callimachus was a Greek, the head of the library in the Museum of Alexandria in Egypt in the third century B.C. You can tell he came from a hot country. The winter is the ideal time for reading big, long books, when the world closes in tight around us and the only way out is to let someone else take charge of our minds for a while. It was in the winter that I first read *The Lord of the Rings* and *A Distant Mirror*, to name two quite different books (but both long ones). In cold winter, my father read aloud to me before I went to bed, as I read to my children now. People from cold climates can appreciate long books. The Monterey Library has plenty of books, long and short, for your winter; come and check out a Tolkien or a Tuchman, or whatever else meets your wintry needs.

The Library is presenting a film series again this year using films on loan from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. The details of the schedule may be found elsewhere in this issue. We are looking forward to another successful festival after last year's series. Please come and help make it a success.

The Trustees are considering sponsoring a book discussion series in the summer. The books chosen will revolve around a particular theme; at this point several themes are possibilities. Each meeting would start with a talk by an outside speaker, normally an academic, followed by open discussion. If you would be interested in taking part, or even in helping with things, give me a call at 528-4723.

— John Higgins
Chairman, Library Trustees

The Library recently applied for and was approved for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Public Library Commissioners for a project entitled "Monterey: Past, Present, and Future." The goals include: creation of a vertical file consisting of newspapers (primarily the *Monterey News*), newspaper clippings and various items of pertinence to the history of Monterey, preservation of material that the library already possesses, and enhancement of that collection. I will be working on this grant through the spring and would appreciate any help anyone can think of. Donations of files, clippings, papers, books, or any other material of historical value to the town would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at the Library, 528-3795, or at home, 528-1382.

— Mark Makuc

MONTEREY LIBRARY HOURS

As a reminder to our readers, the hours of the Monterey Library are:

Monday	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. to noon
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m. to noon
	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

MONTEREY ARTS COUNCIL FILM FESTIVAL

The Monterey Arts Council presents its annual Winter Film Festival to cure those cabin fever blues. Join us at the United Church of Christ in Monterey on five consecutive Saturdays, March 5 through April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The premier film on March 5 is *Being There*, starring Peter Sellers and directed by Hal Ashby, with screenplay by writer Jerzy Kosinski. This film was nominated for several Academy Awards and quickly became an American classic. It is a beautiful film with very fine acting by Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine and Melvyn Douglas. Peter Sellers was highly acclaimed for his portrayal of Chance, the simple gardener who views life as if it were television. This is a departure from his usual roles, and it proves his ability as an actor of subtlety and complexity. This witty film presents a provocative and different point of view about the effects of television upon our lives and the power of simplicity. *Being There* is for mature audiences.

The Black Stallion will be shown on March 12 and is one of those wonderful American films that makes you feel good and hopeful about the world. The film was nominated for several Academy Awards and is beautifully photographed, with lots of action. It tells the story of a young boy's bond with a majestic Arabian stallion and stars Mickey Rooney and Terri Garr. *The Black Stallion* is a family film.

March 19 is the date for the showing of *Hara Kiri*, a Japanese film with English subtitles. It is directed by Masaki Kobayashi and stars Nakadai Tatsuya, one of Japan's finest actors. Mr. Tatsuya starred in Akira Kurosawa's *Kagemusha*. In this film Mr. Tatsuya portrays a warrior whose son-in-law is forced to commit an agonizing suicide and challenges the strict Samurai code of honor. This is a powerful film with action-packed scenes filmed in black and white. This film is considered to be one of the great martial arts films in the Samurai genre. It is for mature audiences.

The fourth film, *Joshua Then and Now*, brings a change of pace on March 26. It is a hilarious and sophisticated comedy based on the novel by Canadian author Mordecai Richter. The film stars James Woods, Alan Arkin and Michael Sarrazin, among others, and contains some terrific comedic acting, particularly by Alan Arkin. This is a recent release — 1985 — and is in color. It is definitely for mature audiences.

Our final film on April 2 is *Black Orpheus*, a Brazilian film in color with English subtitles. The film won the Cannes Film Festival Grand Prize. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful films ever made. The film retells the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice and takes place in the black section of Rio de Janeiro during the two days of Carnival. Marcel Camus directed the film, and the music is by Antonio Carlos Jobim.

This is an opportunity to see some unusual films with some fine acting and directing, excellent screenplays and beautiful photography. Just the prescription for winter blues. The dates are five consecutive Saturdays, March 5 through April 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the United Church of Christ in Monterey. Tickets are $2.50 for adults and $1.00 for senior citizens and children under 12. The popcorn is free, and other refreshments are available. See you there!

— Nick Hearon

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LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Lake Garfield Association was represented by David McAllester at the January 16 workshop on Lake and Pond Restorative Techniques sponsored by the Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations, Inc. (COLAP). Three sessions were held: "Water Quality," by David Mitchell of Baystate Environmental; "Biological, Chemical, and Physical Control," by Lee Lyman of Lycott Environmental Research, Inc.; and "Sedimentation and Flow Control," by Laurence Boutiette, civil engineer, U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, and by Lisa Hendrickson, Aquatic Biologist, Gale Associates. Following the workshops there was an informal panel discussion by nearly 100 attenders under the leadership of Rick McVoy, Division of Water Pollution Control; Bob Austin, Public Access Board; Richard Gelpke, of Lake Boon in Hudson; and the current president of COLAP, Larry Salem of Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester.

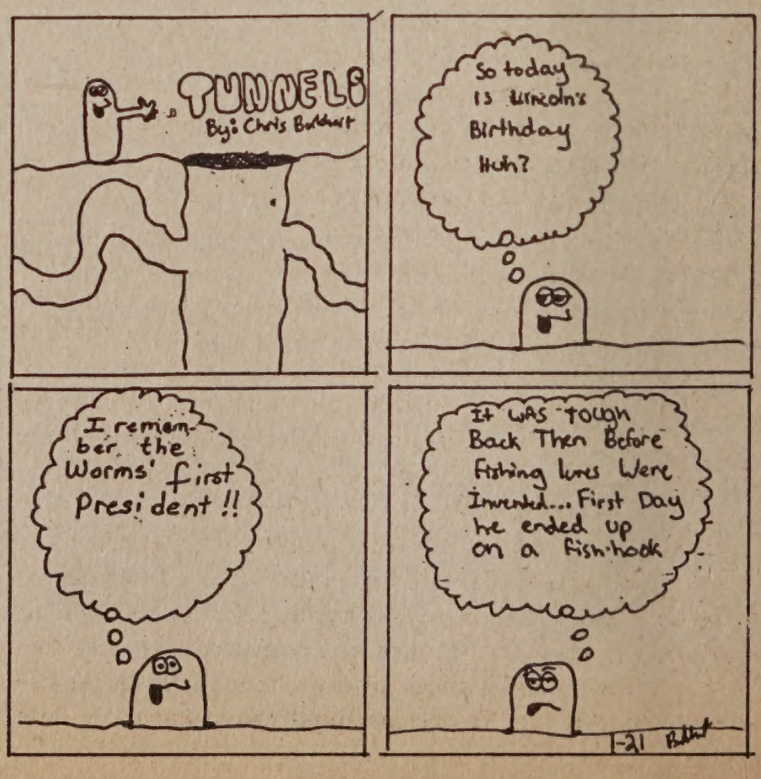
Some of the interesting ideas that were presented:

- There is no "balance of nature": nature is always a process, out of balance, going somewhere.
- Most "control" measures have limited, temporary usefulness until the conditions change and other measures have to be called in.
- Drawdown—should be done in September-October and refill should start in December so that ice can lift up the weedbeds it is frozen to and destroy root systems.
  - — scouring of exposed shore by rain destroys weeds
  - — "solar flexion" reverses soil layers, destroys weeds
  - — if drawdown doesn't destroy all weed beds, it's a waste of time
  - — it dries up wells near the lake or pond
  - — it kills thousands of organisms, including fish and turtles
  - — by concentrating the fish population in a smaller area, it enables the large fish to eat the small ones and grow larger, thus securing an improved inventory of large fish.
- Weed harvesting—the "in" thing nowadays—does not, over the years, create a significant reduction of weeds. It costs $300 to $1,000 an acre; it kills hundreds of fish every day and other organisms caught in the weeds; it clips off the weeds, many of which then grow bushier down low, making a poor environment for fish growth; the harvester cannot work close to docks.
- Dredging (sedimentary removal) opens a can of worms. It's the most expensive method and kills everything except the plants; it releases nutrients that were sealed under the leaf cover on the bottom.
- Benthic barriers—plastic sheets laid on the bottom—cost $1,000 to $3,000 an acre and have to be renewed every year.
- Hydro-raking goes down 15 feet, costs $1,000 to $2,000 an acre; stirs up sediments, leading to algae blooms; kills a lot of things; misses a lot of weeds. Can end up with greater weed growth than before.
- Carp will eat everything, even jump out of the water to snatch leaves on low-hanging branches. Are illegal in every New England state except Connecticut.
- Chemicals: there are new chemicals that don't seem to kill a thing except plants; they allow focus on certain species of plants or certain areas of ponds or lakes.
- Straw bales to control sediment erosion must be staked in place and be embedded at least four inches below ground level.

The ideal of lakes and ponds as clear and lifeless as a swimming pool was dismissed out of hand.

It was heartening to see so many people so deeply concerned about clean water. The impressive commercial displays show that environmental concern is also good business, and the armload of free literature shows that the Commonwealth also means business: "Clean Lakes Program: A Review of the First Decade"; "Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts"; "Environmental Dos and Don'ts on Construction Sites"; "Sedimentation Flow and Control"; "Detergents and Your Lake"; "Fertilizers and Your Lake"; "Septic Systems and Your Lake"; "Clean Lakes Program Guidelines"; and the newsletter of COLAP, *Water Wisdom.*

— David P. McAllester


TUNNELS
By: Chris Bolduc
So today is Lincoln's Birthday Huh?
I remember the Worms' first President !!
It WAS tough Back Then Before Fishing lures Were Invented... First Day he ended up on a fish-hook
I-21

MONTEREY WASTELINES

Where There's Smoke . . . There's Regulation

(A Homily on Woodstoves, Brushpiles and other burning issues.)

Now, I don't tend to like complex regulations in matters of homestead management. They tell me how to build a building, where to put (or not at all) the outhouse, when to burn the brushpile (if at all) and all that stuff. I came to New England a few years ago from the frontier and expected to find, except for elbow room, most of the features of self-reliance and independence for which Yankees have long been famous. I was going to fit right in.

Well, welcome to the modern age. We can't seem to depend on our own knowledge and instincts anymore—developments just fly past our ears so fast that things get out of individual control, and rules and institutions have to take over.

The woodstove issue, for an example. Many people are saying that woodstoves should be banned, and some localities are actually restricting new installations. The problem is real—unburned gases and carbon particles hang in the air and cause atmospheric and health problems for many people. An acquaintance of mine actually leaves her Vermont town when the winter heating season begins in earnest. But how did we get to this? Were woodstoves always a terrible plague on our rural environment? Some of the problem could be caused by increasing density with smaller lots and closer neighbors. But the main culprits, I think, are Yankee ingenuity, modern lifestyles and the loss of old folk knowledge. The Yankee ingenuity part comes from the tight, insulated and storm-windowed houses in which we live. Now we don't need so much heat, and we want to slow down the heating stove. Okay, so we build an airtight stove (Vermont Castings, et al). Three or four sticks of wood will last half a day. Remember, we're away from home all day—no wife or granddad to tend the fires. We load up the stove and head down the road, leaving the durn thing to smolder all day. The fire strangles, oozing out the bit of heat our refurbished airtight house needs and pumping half-burned gunk into the air. If we remember anything from the past, we will at least hurry home from work, loosen the reins on the airtight wonder stove and let it gallop a bit before supper.

We have to find ways to burn wood better and cleaner—to approximate the coal-filled hearths and crimson pot-bellied stoves of yesteryear. There's less pollution in a 1,000-degree wood-fired stove than in any oil-burning gun in town, but an oil burner is regulated to burn at a constant heat—it's like having a mechanical grandpa always there to stir up the fire and add another log. No one has found a good way to legislate a hot wood fire, so the inclination is to prohibit the wood fire to solve the problem.

Legislation is a meat ax; education is more of a scalpel. If I were operating on the community, I'd give education every last chance I could. But education is quite fragile. People have to want to learn. People have to care what they are doing to their own and the collective environment. We have to agree to exert a little bodily effort. Getting up to add a stick of wood takes effort—my TV remote doesn't have a button for that chore.

My great hope is that we can somehow educate ourselves enough, on woodburning and other solid waste matters, that we can avoid further meat-ax legislation of our lives.

— Wayne Burkhart

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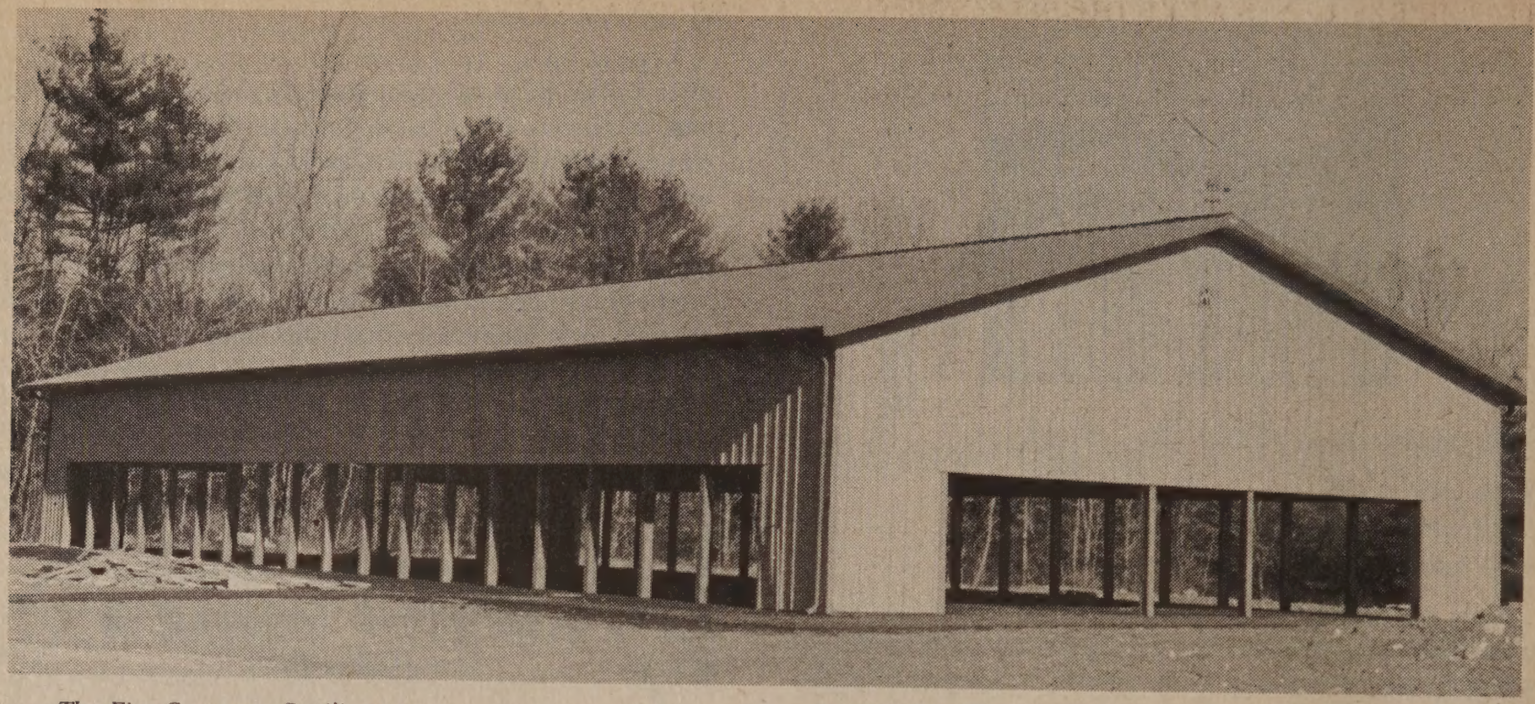

The Fire Company Pavilion

FIRE COMPANY NEWS

In case anyone is wondering, this article should answer the question of what the function of the new building behind the firehouse is. It's a prefab building of polebarn design—and it should work quite nicely to keep everyone dry in the extremely unlikely event of rain on the last Saturday in July. The tents in Greene Park helped, but the cost in money and manhours were becoming prohibitive, and combined with the leaks that we sometimes had with the tents, the pavilion will be better. The building is complete, but the landscaping and some interior work still have to be done. As with the firehouse, the Fire Company is willing to listen to any suggestions for other uses of the pavilion. Ice skating has been suggested. We'll see everyone there July 30 for our annual Steak Roast.

— Mark Makuc

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MONTEREY PRESERVATION LAND TRUST NEWS

Land Trust members have been involved in a variety of activities recently. Efforts are under way to protect the Barnum Flats Farm located across from the intersection of Gould Farm Road by use of conservation restrictions. The farm is for sale as a unit and will not be subdivided.

Members who have been involved in the Open Space Committee report that the Open Space Plan has been drafted and submitted to the appropriate local boards for their review and written comments. The next step after the written comments have been obtained is submission to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and then final submission to the Division of Conservation Services in Boston. Once this plan is on file in Boston, our Town becomes eligible for some of the various state funding projects which were recently enacted by the state legislature. Next month, we plan to provide detailed information about these programs and how we in Monterey can benefit.

Several members have been attending various Town board meetings and are learning more about ways that the Land Trust can be of assistance in areas of conservation issues.

The Conservation Commission and the Land Trust are working together to provide some hiking trails here in town. This is an example of a project which would be eligible for state funding through the filing of the Open Space Plan.

These are just a few ways in which our members have been active this month. The reason for all our concerns about conservation surrounds us each day as we drive through the natural beauty of our landscape. Even in the worst of the winter weather we see nature's many gifts all around us.

— Nick Hearon

PART-TIME RESIDENTS MEET THE SELECTMEN

The first of the special meetings of the selectmen with Monterey's part-time residents will take place on Saturday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ. Anyone is welcome to come, but the special focus will be on enhancing the communication between the Town government and those many members of our community who are mostly here on weekends and during the summer. We're hoping that the skiing will have lured enough people to town so that this first in the series will be well attended.

The idea is to provide a forum for new ideas, old grievances, and special problems, on those subjects where the Town has the responsibility for getting things done. A few examples are waste disposal, highway maintenance, lake management, parks and recreation, and controls on land use.

The first meeting will be general, at least at the beginning, and will be a good time to rough out the agenda for future dates. This will give us time to notify everybody and to plan ahead so that the relevant Town committees or boards can have representatives at meetings where their help is needed. Though the selectmen have held informational meetings before to get the issues into the open before crucial Town meetings, this may be the first time in Monterey's history where the idea of the meeting came first and the subjects are allowed to develop in the spirit of a general improvement in communication.

The date of the second meeting will be Saturday, March 12.

— The Selectmen

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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Jim** and **Julie Johnston** of Cronk Road on the birth of their son, **Jesse James**, on December 26. Jesse weighed in at 9 lbs. 14 oz.

Congratulations also to **Elk Dempsey** and **Caro Dellenbaugh** of Art School Road on the birth of daughter **Jareka** on January 16.

And congratulations to **Stuart "Randy" Gelbard** and **Adrian Guzik**, who have announced their engagement. Randy is the son of **Paul** and **Estelle Gelbard**, part-time residents of Lake Garfield for many years.

We hear tell that **Patrick McBride** enjoyed a great Christmas vacation break skiing at Lake Tahoe.

We're glad to have **Arthur** and **Alice Somers** back with us. They are braving the Berkshire elements now after spending some time in California and Mexico.

John O'Connor enjoyed a little getaway to Florida and California. Small world! **Lew Scheffey** also traveled to Florida, and they were on the same flight! Glad to have you both back in town.

Jimmy Gauthier took a couple of semester break trips—north on a skiing adventure and then to New York City and Washington, DC. Jimmy will soon return to UMass at Amherst, where he is a senior.

Michelle Grotz enjoyed a two-week semester break trip to Puerto Rico with the Mt. Holyoke College swim team, of which she is a member. Five colleges were in training and competition there, and Michelle reports it was hard work. Well, maybe just a little bit of fun, too. Michelle is a freshman at Mt. Holyoke.

Congratulations to **Natasha Grotz**, who has been selected as a representative to the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation Leadership Seminar to be held in Boston this spring. The seminar is a three-day event bringing together "tomorrow's leaders," outstanding high school sophomores, with today's leaders in business, government and education.

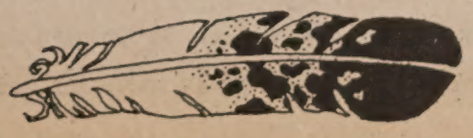
On January 10 **David McAllester** lectured on Native American musical instruments at the Stearns Collection of the School of Music, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He flew out in the morning, gave his talk, and flew home in the evening, which satisfied him with jetsetting for the time being.

Best of good luck to **Priscilla Gulliver** and **Sarah Bingham** who are both working at the new offices of Solstice in Great Barrington. We wish them all success in their contributions to the good health of the community.

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to **Chris Messer** on January 12, to **Julian Carlos Mendel** on January 13, to **Heidi Stucker** on January 14, to **Bridget Mendel** on January 15, and to **Eric Craven** on January 25.

Please continue to send any little news to me, just Route 23, or drop it at the General Store. Many thanks!

— Stephanie Grotz



HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

When I was in college there was an elderly member of the biology department who was famous for two things: his field botany course and his slide show on wilderness. I was not fortunate enough to take his course. There was always a waiting list, including many upper-class students wanting to take it for the second or third time, and it was only offered in the spring. I did see the slide show, many times, and I can still hear Ken Hunt's quiet, genteel narration as he showed us careful selections from his lifetime of appreciation for natural beauty and for wildness. His slide show was especially good because it was short and because the narration included many periods of silence.

It's been nearly twenty years since I last saw those wilderness slides, and I'm sad to realize the images have faded. There are so many striking photographs of wildlife and spectacular scenery on calendars and in magazines that few stand out specifically in my mind. I do remember the last slide in Ken Hunt's show, however, and the modest way in which it was introduced. It was a shot of clouds, taken from the window of a plane. We looked down on endless drifts and billows of vapor, edged in light from a low sun in a blazing blue sky, the sky above the clouds which we rarely ever see.

"I couldn't show you pictures of wilderness without including this scene," Ken would say. "I suppose it may seem a bit unusual, but I often think that this is the true wilderness, up here above the clouds."

For me this last remark always raised the issue of definition or concept of wilderness and broadened my thinking considerably. I also thought about the particular thrill that comes from seeing a wilderness or visiting one. It is true that I've felt that thrill looking out at the vast sky from a plane. It is a sky with no earthly horizon, no sense of limits or of home. I've felt it high on a mountaintop, and I've also felt it when visiting a world utterly different from my own, such as the one found in a drop of pond water. Looking down the microscope at the colorful, geometric, and highly active lives of the protozoa, I've suddenly lost my sense of size, home, and all other assumptions.

I got a strong taste of that wilderness thrill last week when the weather was so cold. I took a walk down to the beaver pond, and the wind off the lake turned the left side of my face to glass and needles. Facing right into it, looking up the lake, I might as well have been on the surface of the moon. Drifts had so altered the landscape that usual landmarks were gone, and the hollowing, sculpting of the wind left curves and cornices that reminded me of national monuments, sandstone wonders of the world. They reminded me, too, of shapes I've seen in the wilderness under the microscope. These were not the usual scenes of the warm and muddy summer swamp, teeming with blackbirds and damsel flies. This was the underside of the season, the winter wilderness.

As I stood in the wind with my face growing numb, I began to feel lonely. I thought, "Well, this wilderness is spectacular and all, but it's no place for me. I couldn't survive here, I'm a creature of the hearth. I can't find a single friend out here. Even the alders are looking closed down today."

So I turned my back to the wind and clumped across the beaver pond to the old lodge in the middle. It has been refurbished this year, after being in a caved-in condition, and lots of winter food supply is laid in nearby. The twiggy tips of cut alders and birch branches stick up through the ice. Down below, the beaver will be making short forays out to cut off sticks and take them up inside the lodge for winter meals. In the spring we'll find the peeled sticks floating by the dam.

Knowing there was another warm-blooded mammal nearby cheered me a little. I thought, "We are related, after all. Maybe I'm not such a stranger here."

Then I walked over to Burke's Canal. In winter, since Lake Garfield is drawn down, this is a muddy place with a stream down the middle. On this terribly cold day there was still some open water. Here I came suddenly upon the tracks of a small furry animal with a long tail dragging and realized a muskrat was wintering in the beaver pond. It had come over the bank and down into the canal to forage, even on that day of wilderness cold, and up ahead I saw a warm brown body crouched in the shallow water, busy with something.

He saw me and was frightened, so I took care to ease away and put no further stress on him on such a day. I may wait until a warmer day to go down to the lake again, but knowing I have at least two relatives down there going about business as usual makes me feel at home in that wilderness of cold and wind and snowy sculpture.

— Bonner J. McAllester

A SCATTERING OF HAIKU

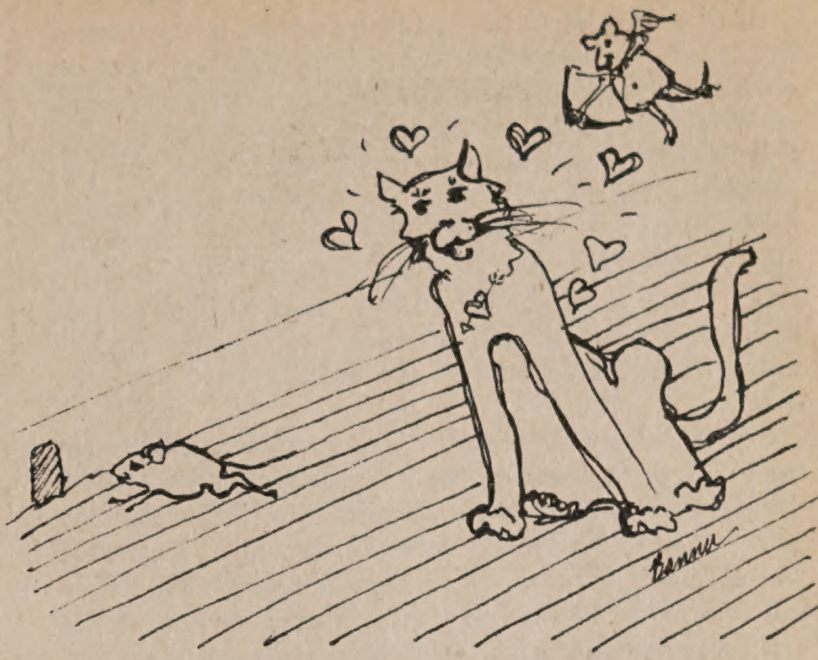
(To Basho)

Sliced-so-thin new moon
Tossed into black cloud sky
Your gold is all I see.

Stars come out piecemeal
New moon finds her friends at last
The mists are ghostly.

Cool wind at my back
I thank these radiant stars
Hungry, I push on.

— Sue Moody



SPLITTING A ROUND OF WOOD IN WINTER

Tap it in carefully, but
On the first big blow
The wedge jumps into the air,
Ringing: round one to the round!

Tap in again, tighter:
Dull, flat blows going nowhere;
Now big blows, but the wood,
Dense with ice, won't yield.

Then the round groans,
Becomes resonant on a falling
Scale of acquiescence, opens,
And the wedge rings again:
Round two to the sledge!

— David P. McAllester

DRAWING

"There's a head.
A church head.
I'll put on one leg.
That looks like a ballerina is dancing.
Now it's a turkey head.
A turkey-church-head.
It's like a picture of my whole life.
I made a bird.

I made a ballerina-bird.
I'll put on a nose.
I'm going to make two noses.
Isn't that funny.
Jump, Jump, Jump.
Little writing steps."

— Ana Maye
(recorded by Steve Maye)

THOUGHTS ON A WINTER MORNING

I yearn for the dawn of springtime
When the apple buds unfold
And the first song of the bluebird
Brings a happiness untold.
When the robin sings at daybreak
And the sun sends its warm rays,
And my heart is filled with longing
For the joyous springtime days.

— Eleanor Kimberley

BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

As of this writing we have had few good winter trail days at Beartown. The initial snowfalls were too light and, until the eight inches of powder we got on January 8, not deep enough to cover the rocks on the trails. Sunday, the 17th of January, sticks out in my mind as the best skiing day to date. The temperature was in the mid-30s, the sun shone bright throughout the day, and almost all the rocks were covered. The snowmobiling was not quite as good that day due to those few exposed rocks. It was truly a wonderful day to make personal contact with so many Forest goers. Personal contact is my favorite way to communicate with people and also seems the most effective.

My second favorite means of communicating is through this article in the *Monterey News*. Speaking of which, I have a confession to make. Yes, it is true, folks. From the beginning, before you even suspected, I have had an ulterior motive for writing about Beartown, as well as encouraging others to join this conspiracy. This ulterior motive is not a sinister one, but it is rather manipulative. Never having been very good at subtle approaches, I now feel compelled to come right out with it. This article has served as the forefront of a campaign to recruit you all as fellow stewards of Beartown, and of the rest of the Commonwealth.

One of my heroes is a man by the name of Freeman Tilden, the guru of the concept of Environmental Interpretation, and a teacher of many Park Rangers throughout this country and others. His expanded use of the word "interpretation" is in actuality a concept. The basic premise of this concept is that by providing information, meanings, and relationships about a resource in a stimulating manner you may instill lasting knowledge. That *knowledge* brings about *understanding*, which leads to *appreciation*, which may hopefully lead to *protection*, the ultimate goal. Whether it be through your vote, the quality of the use that you make of the resource, or in the way you teach your children, the land becomes the beneficiary of those actions, for better or for worse. And so the reason behind this article (not the only one, mind you).

I think some of you already knew. I never was very good at subtleties. I asked a reader the other day if she thought my articles were a bit too self-indulgent. She said, "But, Tom, it's the *Monterey News*!" And so it is.

— Tom O'Brien

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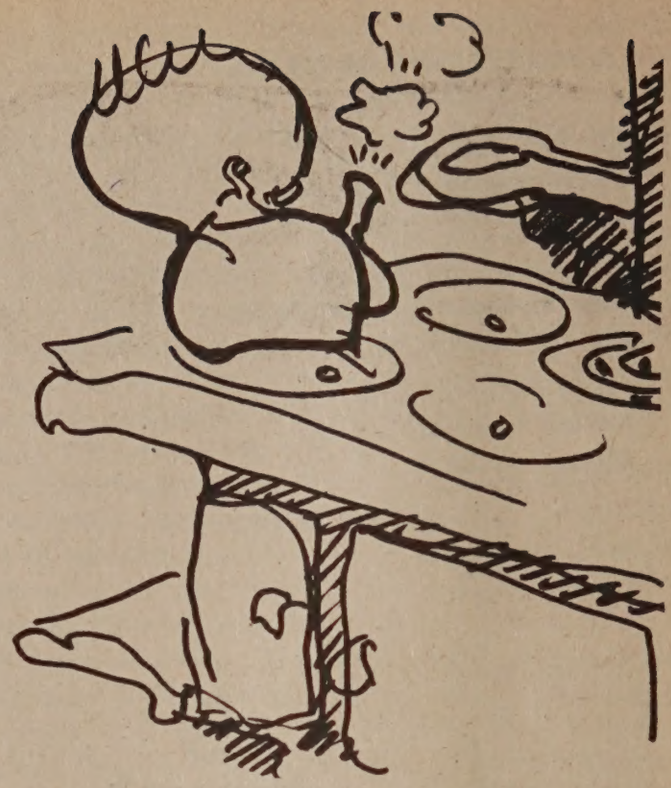

TWO HEARINGS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On January 11 the Commission held a public hearing on the plans of Barry and Marjorie Jaffe to construct a single-family dwelling on the old Camp Shalom property. The hearing was required because the building will be within the 100-foot buffer zone of a tributary stream to Lake Garfield. An Order of Conditions was issued to the Jaffes that they may proceed after erosion control measures have been inspected by the Commission and written approval is given.

A second hearing on the same date was on the plans of Ida Weitz to drill a well 42 feet from Lake Garfield. This is within the buffer zone, but permission was given for the work to proceed if a catch basin is constructed to contain the rock silt so that it will not wash into the lake as it is brought to the surface.

Alice Howell photographed these wild turkeys as they crossed her lawn.

INDIAN NOTES

The Mahicans in the American Revolution

When the American Revolution broke out, many Indian tribes were undecided as to which side to favor. The Mahicans had experienced British obliviousness to native property rights in their old home in the Hudson Valley. In their new tribal seat at Stockbridge, also, their petitions to the Crown for redress when lands were unfairly or illegally taken from them went unanswered. That may have helped them decide to join with the colonists in hopes that their services would win them a better standing in the new government.

In answer to a request from General Washington's headquarters for support, the principal sachem at Stockbridge, Wauhaunawaumut, replied, "Wherever you go we will be at your side, and our bones will die with yours!" The Mahicans lived up to these words from the start: on June 17, 1775, they were among the American defenders at the battle of Bunker Hill, the war's first major engagement. In October of the next year they were at the battle of White Plains. Under Colonel Haslet they held Chatterton's Hill, where the heaviest fighting took place. During the winter of 1777-1778 when the American troops were suffering at Valley Forge from cold and hunger, the Mahicans and Oneidas came to their aid on snowshoes. They brought over 300 bushels of corn in packbaskets. And they were among Washington's troops harassing the British in their retreat from Philadelphia in the spring of 1778.

By the war's end over half the manpower of the Stockbridge Indians had been sacrificed in the cause of the Revolution. Washington, in a special message to Congress, praised the contribution of his Indian allies in the war and recommended that they receive just compensation for their services. The new government, however, was not even able to pay its debts with valid money, and the Mahican survivors were impoverished like so many other veterans of the Continental Army. Disheartened by their losses and the low morale of their fragmented community at Stockbridge, where the whites had taken over the local government and much of the land, they began moving west to New York on the invitation of the Oneida Indians. By 1786 they were gone from the Housatonic Valley.

— David P. McAllester

FUR TRAPPING IN MONTEREY

. . . Perry Fargo served as Selectman and Assessor for the town. He died in Albany Medical Hospital and is buried in Corashire Cemetery. For many winters Perry had a line of traps set in Sandisfield, Otis and Monterey, which were attended every other day. At that time, in 1916, furs were costly. A good red fox would bring on the market about thirty dollars a pelt. All the boys in town would have their own spring or stream where they would set their traps year after year. The furbearing animals caught at this time were the red fox, coon, and once in a while a grey fox, but their pelts were worth very little. Mink were quite plentiful. The lakes and streams were full of muskrats. Once in a great while one of the boys would come home with an otter, which was very valuable.

At this time we had no beaver, but of late years you can ride the roads and see where the dead trees stand in great clusters. You are sure to find a family of beaver with a house made of large sticks and branches of dead trees. This is where they stay in winter. They cannot stay under water too long at a time, they have to come up and get air and this is why they have a house to go into from a source under water. This outlet very seldom freezes over, for their family goes in and out of the water very often. Also in this house is their dining room. They love new shoots from the willow trees. Their teeth are like chisels and in a night or two they can take down a very large tree. Beaver do most of this building and tree cutting after dark. The trappers in town included Charles Enoe, his line of traps were in the Blue Hill section of town. Earl Loom took in the Beartown Mountain section; Charles Gregory had Mt. Hunger and Lake Garfield; Perry Fargo took Hayes Pond and part of Sandisfield; Joe Johnson took Dry Hill and Harmon Brook section. You see the town was well covered. At the last of March trapping would cease. Why? When the sun is high and melts the snow, the animal lies down to sleep or rest and the long hair, called guard hair, freezes in the snow and ice. When the animal gets up, the guard hairs are broken, also the inside of the hide starts turning blue. At this time of year the fur buyers would come around to look over your collection and try to make a deal.

One of the dealers was from Canaan, Connecticut, a Mr. Beebe. We had the chance to go to his storage barn to pick out furs to be made into a scarf and muff for one of our young ladies in town. This barn had thousands of pelts hanging in clusters all over the barn, waiting to be shipped to be made into fur coats and scarves. This was the time coonskin coats were all the style. The automobiles were touring cars, with tops that could be put up and down in a few minutes. The cars had no heaters and when the men drove with the tops down, a coonskin coat and hat were very comfortable and stylish. Coonskin coats could be seen by the hundred at football games.

— from ms. *History of Monterey* by A. Wallace Tryon

It snowed then, too — Monterey, 1956

Photos by Eleanor Kimberley

SUSAN McALLESTER

Elephant Rock

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter to express our appreciation of the community spirit which we have so profoundly experienced recently in the preparation for the birth of our child. Jareka Dellenbaugh-Dempsey was born at home on Art School Road on Saturday morning, January 16.

Sometimes in our busy lives we lose the sense of community that is here in Monterey. However, we felt the community support for us as a family in so many ways. Thank you to all who participated in the blessing circle for our new baby. Thank you to all who have included us in your prayers. Thank you to all who have brought us gifts of food. Thank you to Kathie Maye for having the midwifery expertise to make the home birth possible. Thank you to all who would have responded if we had needed any emergency help. All of these are examples of community support which made the birth go so smoothly.

The whole process of planning the home birth and sharing it with the community has renewed our willingness to express further the depth of caring that exists in this community. We look forward to introducing you to Jareka now that she is here in person.

Warmly,
Caro and Elk Dellenbaugh-Dempsey

To the Editor:

The *News* is a beautiful link in the winter and a helpful part of our lives in the spring, summer and fall. Thanks.

Marge and Sy Richman

To the Editors and Staff of the *Monterey News*:

I have been a former summer resident for 25 years and an all-year-round resident for 20 years (now retired), and I think all the staff and Advisory Board should be complimented on the fine job all do in meeting the needs of the Monterey residents in keeping all informed of Town news, residents, and other interesting articles.

Sincerely,

George Mensi

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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange No. 291 met December 2 with the theme "Preparing for Christmas." Plans were made for a Christmas party on December 19, with a covered dish supper and a gift exchange.

At the Christmas party for members, families and friends, there was a variety program with Sister Edith Wheeler as pianist, followed by a delicious buffet. There was a lollipop tree for the children. Sister Violet Hardisty won the afghan crocheted by Sister Ann Vickerman. A Past Secretary pin was presented to Sister Patricia Hardisty by Rev. W. Raymond Ward. Plans were made for the January 20 meeting at the Lecturer's home.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

MONTEREY ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

The Monterey Arts Council will host a regional meeting for area arts councils on Saturday, February 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the United Church of Christ in Monterey. Dyane Wiley, the Regional Liaison for the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council, will lead a lottery workshop. The workshop will focus on concerns and problems in working with the Massachusetts Arts Lottery grants. This meeting should be of interest to area arts council members or artists/applicants and is an excellent opportunity to share concerns and ask questions of our regional liaison person.

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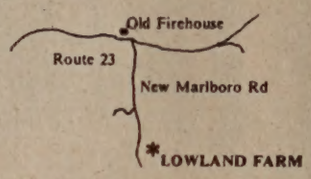

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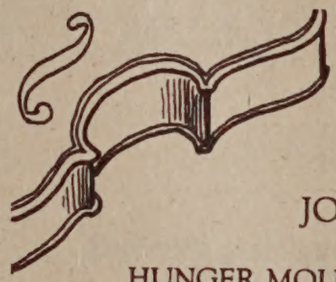

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LUCILLE C. LOGAN

Lucille Catherine Logan, 47, of Lake Buel and Karen Lee Road, Glastonbury, Connecticut, died December 27 at the Hartford Hospital after a long illness. She was born in Westfield and graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1962 with a degree in mathematics. After employment at United Technologies and Gerber Scientific, she taught at the Hartford State Technical College from 1968 until recently. She served on the prudential committee and as treasurer of the Lake Buel Association. She was a communicant of St. Paul's Church in Glastonbury and served on its liturgy committee; she was also a communicant of Our Lady of the Valley Church in Sheffield. She leaves her husband, David T. Logan; a son, Michael; a daughter, Nancy; and a brother, Dr. Kenneth Ashley of Niskayuna, New York.

ROSE GORDON BRENNER

Mrs. Rose Gordon Brenner, 87, died January 9 at the Berkshire Medical Center. She had been living with her daughter, Joan Weinstein, in Monterey since 1983. She was born in New York City and lived in the Bronx and, for the 15 years before she came to Monterey, in Scarsdale. Her great interests were her home and her children, and she was active in several organizations helping orphaned children. She is survived by her three daughters—Shirley Weiss, who lives in Florida, Joan Weinstein, and Elaine Feldman of Las Vegas, Nevada; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29—Bible Study Group at the Schultzes' on New Marlborough Road. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Saturday, February 6—*Arsenic and Old Lace* (1944) with Cary Grant, Raymond Massey, and Peter Lorre, presented by the Library through the Western Regional Public Library System, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library basement. Admission free, refreshments available.

Saturday, February 13—Part-time Residents Meet the Selectmen, at 9:30 a.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ. See page 7 for full account.

—*North by Northwest*, 1959, with Cary Grant, the last in the Library movie series: see above for information.

—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $4.00; children $1.00, to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385, or 518-329-7578.

Friday, February 26—Monterey Ski Day, at Butternut Basin Ski Area for all Monterey residents. If you don't have a pass there's a special rate for Montereyans; party at the upper lodge after skiing. Information: Dean Amidon, 528-1233, or Stephanie Grotz, 528-4519.

Saturday, February 27—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. For other details, see above in announcement for February 13.

Saturday, March 5—First of the Arts Council film series. *Being There*, starring Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine and Melvyn Douglas. See pages 2 and 3 for a beautiful ad and a full account of the festival. Showings will be in the church basement at 7:30 p.m.

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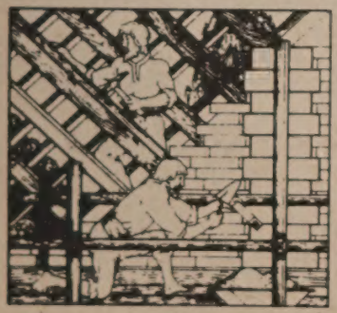

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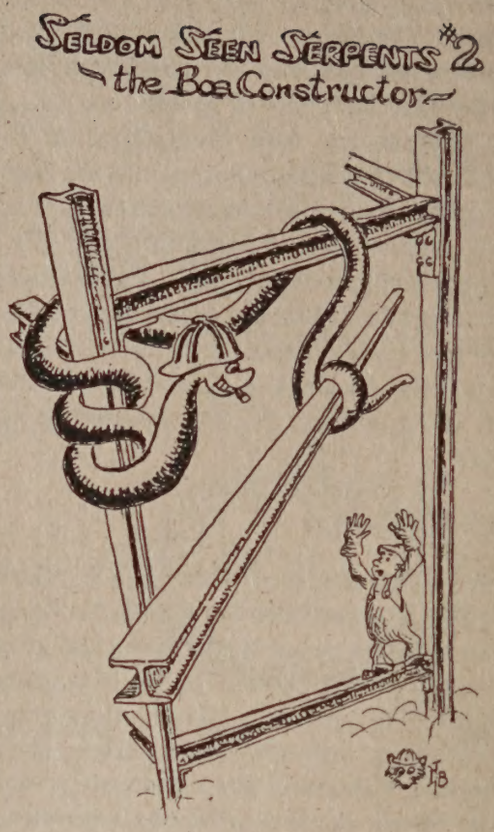

VOX ED

Illegal Dumping in Monterey

As disposal of solid and toxic wastes grows ever more difficult and expensive, we can expect increasingly to find it in our own backyards. It is not a new problem, but it promises to be newly urgent. The refrigerator dumped on Dek Tillett's property in Monterey at the end of December shows us that it can happen here. Two things are certain as we try to cope with this situation: one is that vigilance is a deterrent, especially coupled with a well-publicized fine for littering; the other is that a well-picked-up town suffers less than an untidy one. Let trash lie around for only a few days and more of the same joins it with uncouth speed. Monterey with its low density of population and with the help of various volunteer clean-up squads and others has been able to avoid that come-on look.

— David P. McAllester

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1″ x 3⅝″)	$ 2.50
Two-inch busines cards (2″ x 3⅝″)	5.00
Three-inch ad (3″ x 3⅝″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4″ x 3⅝″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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Art Editor	Bonner McAllester
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